

**t, may I refuse to have
done?**

Parents have the right to refuse the
tests for their baby if this testing
is against their religious beliefs or
if this is true for you, be sure to
talk to the staff or your health care



**How can I get more information
about newborn screening?**

For more information, talk with your health
care provider or contact the Newborn
Screening Program using the information
on the front of this pamphlet.



**Why should my baby be screened for other
conditions?**

Early detection of hearing loss can lead to
better speech and language skills. Many
children benefit from this screening for

There are other rare disorders that
are detected in the newborn period.

For more information speak with your baby's
health care provider.

Privacy Practices

The Department of Health is required by law to protect
the privacy of newborns and their families and assure
that all specimen/information forms submitted for
screening are protected from inappropriate use or
access. A brief summary of the law's requirements are
provided below. Specific requirements are described in
Section 246-650-050 WAC. Copies are available upon
request or on our website www.doh.wa.gov/nbs.

Newborn screening specimen forms are kept in secured
storage at the State Public Health Laboratories for 21
years in accordance with Chapter 70.41.4190 RCW.
After that time, specimens are destroyed. The
Department of Health will destroy a specimen prior to
21 years upon receiving a written request from a parent
or guardian and after all required testing has been
performed.

Access to newborn screening specimen forms is
restricted to Department of Health personnel and
approved individuals who agree to strict confidentiality
requirements. Written parent consent is required for
any research involving identifiable information and for
most other purposes. Any release of specimens or
other information must comply with the State's
Uniform Health Information Act (Chapter 70.02 RCW)
and the privacy and security provisions of Chapter 246-
650 Newborn Screening.

There is only one charge per infant for the screening.
Additional specimens are tested at no additional charge.
However, your health care provider may charge a fee to
collect the specimen. Diagnostic testing, if needed, will
involve additional costs.

This pamphlet is available in: Cambodian, Chinese,
Korean, Laotian, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

For people with disabilities, this pamphlet is available in
an alternative format on request. To submit a request
please call 1-866-660-9050.

Newborn Screening Tests & Your Baby



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Newborn screening?

Newborn screening is a way to identify babies who are at risk for serious disorders that are detectable, but not apparent at birth. The law requires that all babies born in Washington be tested for nine disorders before they are discharged from the hospital (RCW 73.83). Although the law requires that babies born in hospitals, it is also required that babies born outside of a hospital receive the same quality of care.



Why is testing important?

Newborn screening identifies disorders that, if not detected and treated, can result in mental retardation, severe illness or even death. A baby who may look perfectly healthy may actually have a serious disorder. Finding these disorders early and treating them can prevent many serious health events. Fortunately, treatment is available to prevent or greatly reduce the effects of these disorders.

Newborn screening tests are one important way to provide your baby with the best possible health care. A simple blood test can provide you and your baby's health care provider with information about your baby's health that you may not otherwise know.

How is testing done?

All tests are done from a few drops of blood taken from your baby's heel. The blood is collected on a special absorbent paper and sent to the State Public Health Newborn Screening Laboratory in Shoreline for testing. The hospital or health care provider that submitted the specimen is notified of the results within a few days.



What disorders are detected?

Babies are tested for the following nine disorders:

- Biotinidase deficiency
- Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH)
- Congenital hypothyroidism
- Galactosemia
- Hemoglobinopathies (including sickle cell disease)
- Homocystinuria
- Maple syrup urine disease (MSUD)
- Medium chain acyl-coA dehydrogenase deficiency (MCADD)
- Phenylketonuria (PKU)



When should testing be done?

The law requires that the first specimen be collected before hospital discharge, but no later than 5 days of age. This allows affected infants to be treated as soon as possible. The routine second specimen should be collected between 7 and 14 days of age, but it is still beneficial for older babies. Additional testing should also be done when requested by your baby's health care provider.

Why are two specimens recommended?

Most of the disorders will be detected on the first specimen, even if taken on the first day of life. The second specimen is recommended because for some disorders may not be detected on the first specimen if the baby is slightly older.

Sometimes more than two specimens may be requested. This does not mean your baby has one of the disorders. The most common reason for requesting an additional specimen is if the previous results were inconclusive.



What happens if a disorder is detected?

If the newborn screening test indicates a problem, your baby's health care provider will be contacted immediately. Further testing will be recommended so treatment can be started as soon as possible if your baby is affected with one of the disorders.



How can I find out the results?

If you have questions about the results of your baby's screening tests, please contact your health care provider. If your health care provider does not have the results, you should contact the Newborn Screening Program to obtain a copy.